



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 19 March 1968

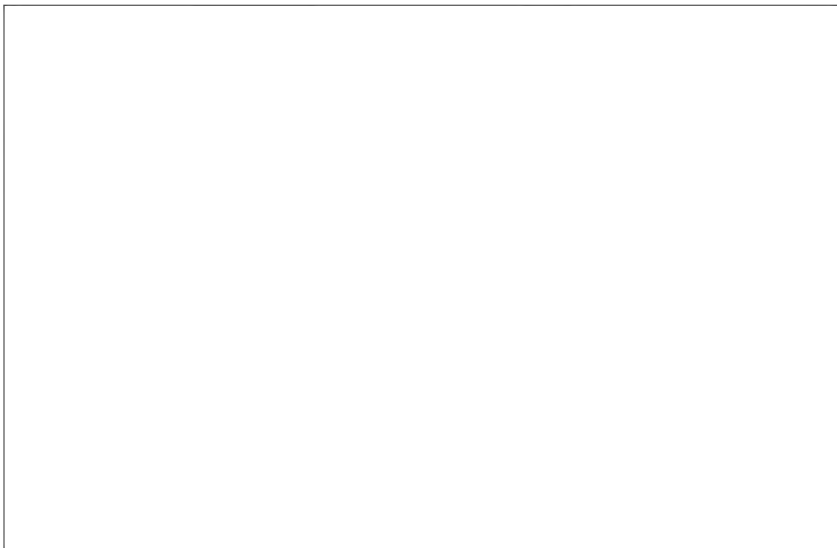


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DAILY BRIEF
19 MARCH 1968

1. Vietnam

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2. Poland

For the first time in the current crisis, uniformed soldiers armed with automatic weapons are being seen in the streets of Warsaw. Armed police are also coming in from other cities.

Rumors abound that Gomulka is shortly to deliver a major speech, perhaps today.

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The security reinforcements in the capital may be to help control the crowds that would be rounded up for a Gomulka speech.

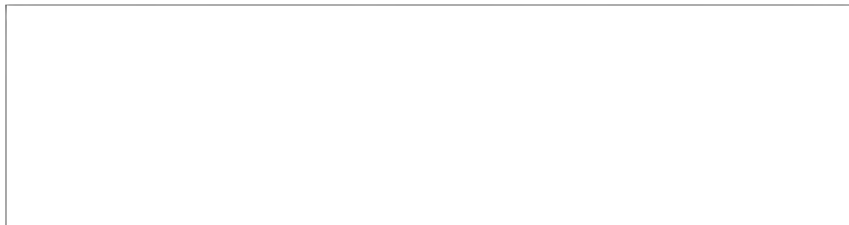
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Unrest continues in other Polish cities.

3. France

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4. USSR-Space

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5. Israel

The Israelis are grim in the wake of yesterday's terrorist incident near the southern port of Eilat. At last word, two adults were dead and 27 children wounded after a school bus hit a mine. This surely raises the chances of a bigger than usual Israeli retaliation against Jordan.

6. Egypt

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7. Nepal

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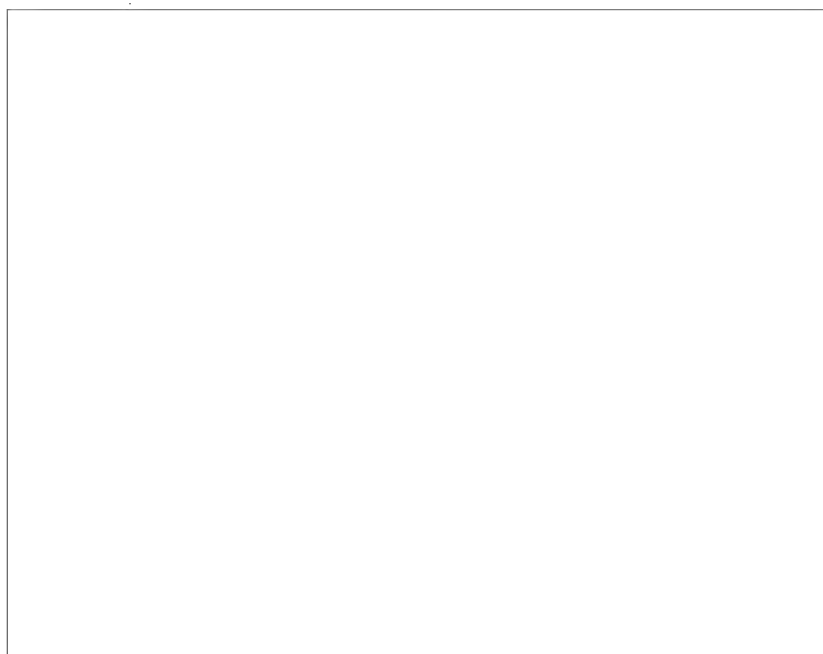
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8. Iran

The Shah is putting the squeeze on the Western oil consortium, and this time he is deadly serious. He insists that it must increase production over the next five years at a rate far greater than the consortium can entertain. He has given it until 20 April to come up with a solution. If it does not, he may well seize consortium territory, including producing oil wells, so Iran can produce more on its own. He says he must have the income for Iran's development program.

9. Panama

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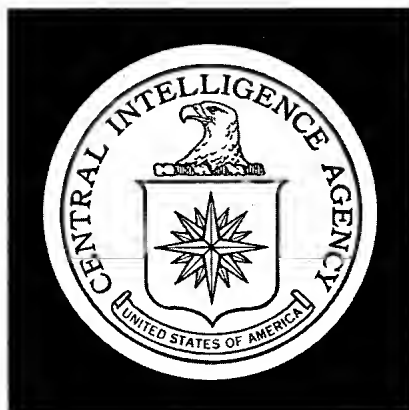
10. Chile

President Frei does not have the muscle to fight hard for his vital anti-inflation program. His able new finance minister resigned in protest last weekend over the President's failure to back him up in the face of heavy political fire. The result could well be a new surge of inflation and more budgetary problems. This would only benefit the Communist-Socialist coalition in the coming congressional elections, now only a year away.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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**Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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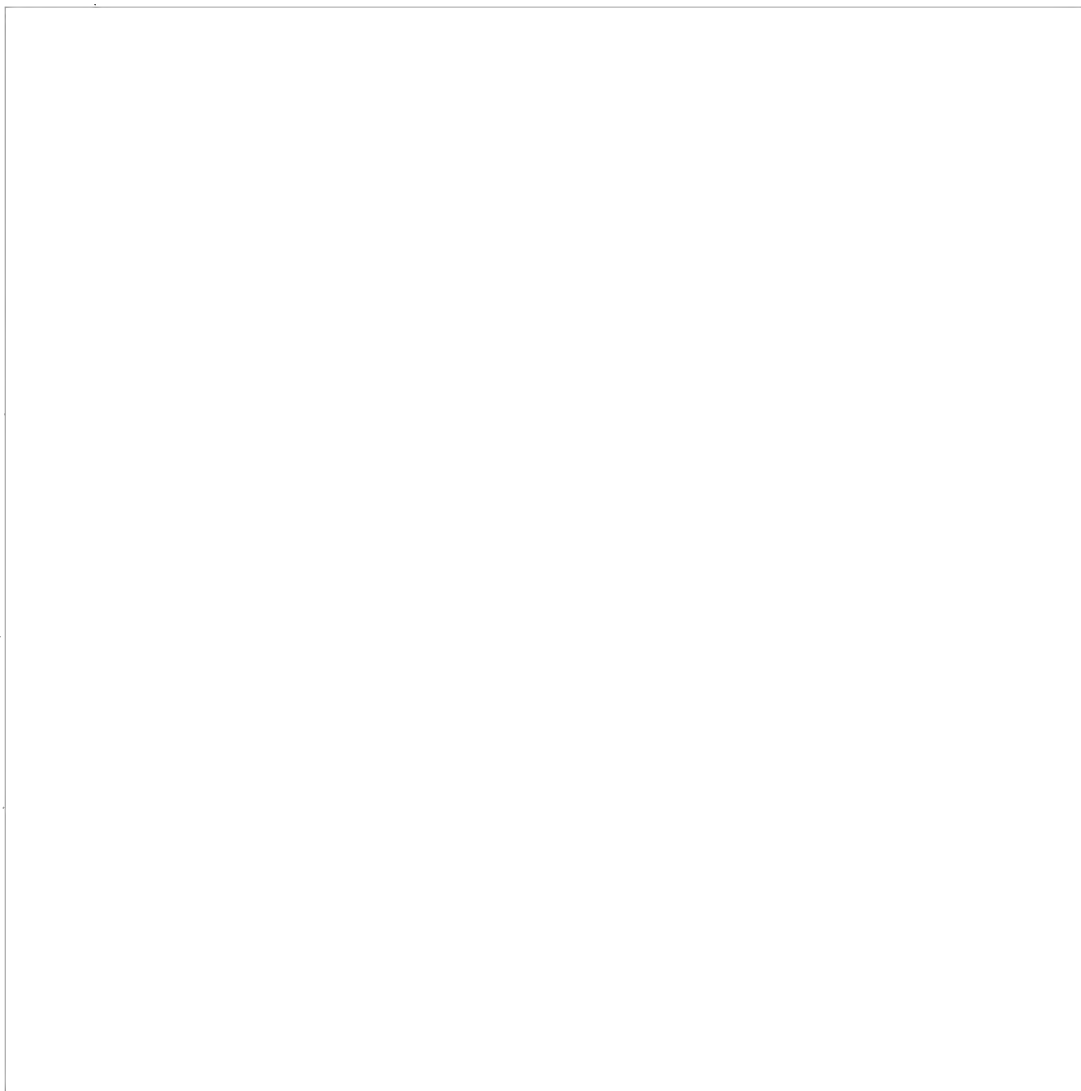
I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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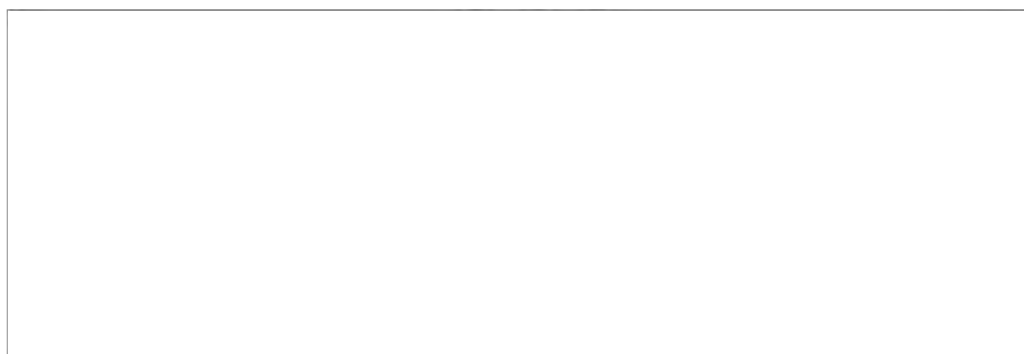
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Initial Hanoi Commentary on New Hampshire Primary: Hanoi's first reference to the 12 March primary election in New Hampshire--a commentary in the Hanoi daily Nhan Dan which the Hanoi domestic service broadcast on 15 March--noted that President Johnson led Senator McCarthy in the voting by a margin of less than five percent. It claimed this was a "heavy blow" to the President's political prestige and influence, and that McCarthy's "victory" reflected the "disappointment of the American people with Johnson's conduct of the Vietnam war." The commentary quoted Senator Robert Kennedy to the effect that the vote reflected "a very strong antiwar feeling" in the US. It noted that both Kennedy and Governor Rockefeller were considering entering the presidential race. The broadcast concluded that "the heavy losses suffered by the US aggressive troops in Vietnam will certainly be advantageous cards in the hands of any Johnson opponent."

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